

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 01896 050908Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7458
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T BEIRUT 1896

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PGOV, PBOR, MARR, UNSC, IS, LE, XF
SUBJ: ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON

REF: (A) TEL AVIV 4449, (B) JERUSALEM 960

1. QUESTIONS RAISED BY WEIZMAN (REF A) AND GUR (REF B) ARE UNDERSTANDABLE. WE THINK, HOWEVER, THAT ISRAELI CONCERNS OVER FRENCH ARE UNJUSTIFIED. LATTER FIND SELVES IN VERY DICEY SITUATION AND ARE OBLIGED TO COOPERATE WITH PLO TO CERTAIN EXTENT. THAT'S THE WHOLE TROUBLE WITH TYRE.
2. WE ASSUME UNIFIL AND LEBANESE ARMY WILL IN FACT BE UNABLE REPEAT UNABLE TO PREVENT TOTALLY PALESTINIAN INFILTRATION BACK INTO SOUTH LEBANON. THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO KEEP IT DOWN AND TO PREVENT PALESTINIANS FROM ESTABLISHING STRONG POINTS LIKE THOSE THEY HAD AT TIBNIN AND MARUN

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AR-RAS, AND THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO PREVENT THEM FROM TERRORIZING LEBANESE VILLAGERS AND HARASSING THE CHRISTIANS. THEY WILL BE UNABLE TO PREVENT OCCASIONAL ROCKETING, HOWEVER, PARTICULARLY AS LONG AS THEY DO NOT OCCUPY REGIONS NORTH OF LITANI.

3. WEIZMAN'S QUESTION ABOUT SARKIS AND HIS CROWD IS A

GOOD ONE. IT WILL BE SOME TIME BEFORE THERE IS AN EFFECTIVE LEBANESE PRESENCE IN THE SOUTH, IF EVER, BUT BELIEVE BOUTROS IS MAKING A LITTLE PROGRESS. NOTE THAT KHOURY TOLD SIILASVUO GOL WOULD SEND COMPANY-STRENGTH UNITS TO CENTRAL AND EASTERN SECTORS, WHICH IS IMPROVEMENT OVER PLATOONS THEY WERE DISCUSSION ON MONDAY.

4. DOUBT THAT GUR'S APPARENT BELIEF (PARA 2, REF B) SYRIANS HAVE ENOUGH INFLUENCE WITH PALESTINIANS TO SOLVE TYRE PROBLEM IS REALISTIC, PARTICULARLY GIVEN PRESENT LOCATION OF ADF ABOVE ZAHRANI. PARKER

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